(b) The proposal submitted by the State Government seeks financial assistance for infrastructural facilities such as shop-cum-godown, auction platform, approach roads, fencing, office building, water and sanitary facilities etc.

(c) A decision on the proposal will be taken after necessary consultations are completed.

Utilisation of Assets of PSUs by Ministry

2330. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item "Ailing PSU's flat home to new Minister" appearing in 'Hindustan Times" dated 30th October, 1999 regarding the utilisation of assets of PSUs by the Ministry; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of the news report published in the Hindustan Times dated 30th October, 1999. The Minister of State for Food Processing Industries was given temporary occupation of the flat belonging to Modern Food Industries (India) Limited (MFIL) till such time he was allotted a regular Government accommodation, on terms and conditions, as per the resolution of the Board of MFIL. No extensive repair or provision of furnishing, more than warranted, was made for the routine maintenance of the flat. the vehicles provided to the Minister for his official use had been in terms of the entitlement. The Minister has been allotted Government accommodation and has already vacated the flat of MFIL.

Assistance to Assam Agriculture University

2331. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what help has been given to Assam Agriculture University at Jorhat by the ICAR during the last three years;

(b) whether the University has succeeded in Agro Research work; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) the ICAR has provided the following grants to Assam Agricultural University during the last three years:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

1.	'Development and Strengthening' and 'Catch-up Grant' of AAU, Jorhat 1997-98 — 270.00 1998-99 — 100.00 99-2000 — 100.00	470.00
2.	Permanent Research Schemes	588.47
3.	Ad-hoc Research Schemes	253.72
4.	Extension Education	324.14
5.	Pilot project on technological assessment and refinement through institute village linkage programme	9.34
	TOTAL	1645.67

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per enclosed statement.

Statement

A large number of germplasm to various crops have been collected, evaluated and utilized by Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat. The university has developed 27 varieties of rice, 4 of maize, 6 of pulses, 5 of oilseeds, 5 of sugarcane and 1 of jute. Some of the outstanding varieties like Monoharsali, Ranjit, Bahadur of rice, M-27, TS-38 of Toria; CoBln 9605 of sugarcane has been cultivated successfully

outside the state. Recently developed toria variety TS-46 ranked first in the coordinated trial. Hybrid varieties of rice have been also developed. In-vitro propagation technique of lemon, orchid, banana, turmeric, ginger, kadam, bamboo, ramie etc. have been developed.

Across the years, crop management research laid emphasis on cultural practices such as optimum time and method of sowing, optimising plant population through seed rate and spacing and weed management of various crops. Based on the findings a precise schedule of cultural practices have been formulated for all the field and horticultural crops of Assam. Some significant findings are; technology for mixed cropping of Ahu and Bao, Ahu and Asra; staggered planting of Sali rice, technology for late planted Sali rice and double transplanting for meeting the seeding requirement under post flood condition; technology for rice planting in hilly slopes, identification of cropping sequences for different farming situations, recommendations of irrigation schedule; integrated nutrient management both in cropping system and individual crops, recommendation of improved practices alternative to Jhum for higher production as well as to maintain the fertility statues of jhumming areas; Development of food-forage cropping sequence; technology for four ratoon crops of sugarcane.

The scientists have also evolved measures for control/management of major pest and diseases of the region. Apart from these, significant research on soil microbiology, Apiculture, Sericulture, Agro Forestry,

Tea Husbandry, Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Economics and Fisheries has been done.

Assistance to Boost Milk Production

†2332. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the State-wise production of milk in the country; and what was the position as to its production in last three years; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.